

New Sherwin-Williams advanced energy barrier eliminates threat of corrosion under insulation

Heat-Flex AEB rivals thermal retention capabilities of traditional insulation systems for a more sustainable approach to insulating assets

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With Heat-Flex® AEB, the highly costly and dangerous phenomenon of corrosion under insulation (CUI) could be a thing of the past. We're kissing both insulation and CUI goodbye.”

*Neil Wilds, herwin-Williams
Protective & Marine*

With Heat-Flex® AEB (Advanced Energy Barrier), the highly costly and dangerous phenomenon of corrosion under insulation (CUI) could be a thing of the past. Because by replacing the bulky mineral-based insulation traditionally used on storage tanks, process vessels, and piping to retain heat, the innovative coating essentially eliminates the conditions needed for CUI to develop in the first place.

CUI occurs when water penetrates traditional insulation systems and becomes trapped against metal surfaces, creating a corrosive environment that is often hidden from

view. Heat-Flex AEB replaces such insulation with a thick film of insulative coating material, capable of retaining operating temperatures of up to 177°C (350°F), with excursions to 204°C (400°F).

Neil Wilds, Global Product Director – CUI, at Sherwin-Williams Protective & Marine, said:

“Corrosion under insulation requires the presence of insulation. By removing this from an asset and applying the thermal insulative coating in its place, there is no longer any physical system under which corrosion under insulation could occur. Therefore, the corrosion under insulation is eliminated by default. We're kissing both insulation and CUI goodbye.”

The thermal insulative coating offers a variety of enhanced sustainability benefits. By eliminating CUI, it helps extend the lifespan of steel assets, minimising the environmental costs of production and maintenance. In addition, it eliminates the manufacturing, shipping and storage of the materials required for a traditional system, from mineral wool insulation and the wiring, pins and banding that keeps insulation in place, to the metal cladding. Importantly, unlike

traditional insulation systems that lose efficiency with the inevitable moisture ingress Heat-Flex AEB has a consistent thermal efficiency. This enables the maintenance of required operating temperatures without increasing process heat and, therefore, energy usage.

Neil Wilds continued: “When developing Heat-Flex AEB, we needed to ensure the coating itself could retain process heat at temperatures high enough to remove traditional insulation and not affect the consistency and flow of materials housed inside assets. Careful manipulation of the coating molecule and product formulation enabled this surprising capability, which has notable ramifications for reducing costs and improving carbon footprints, while enabling efficiencies in various facility applications.”



A heater treater coated with Sherwin-Williams Heat-Flex® AEB - a sprayed thermal insulative coating that replaces traditional insulation to prevent corrosion under insulation (CUI) on hot process assets.

Applying Heat-Flex AEB is significantly easier, faster and safer than installing bulky insulation systems, which requires workers to wrap, band, and cover insulation while in close proximity to hot assets. Heat-Flex AEB is an easy-to-use 1K coating – simply open, mix and apply. A single applied coat will instantaneously reduce the surface temperature, removing any burn risk. Unlike with traditional insulation systems, Heat-Flex AEB is applied via spray. This means personnel are not in close proximity to hot assets during coating, meaning assets can operate at up to 148°C (300°F) during application to minimise disruption. New assets can also be coated quickly and efficiently in pre-assembly yards rather than in-situ.

Heat-Flex AEB is typically sprayed over a primer, which is directly applied to prepared steel to protect it from corrosion. Recommended primers include Heat-Flex 750 and Heat-Flex ACE.

AT A GLANCE:

- Heat-Flex® AEB (Advanced Energy Barrier) from Sherwin-Williams is a sprayed thermal insulative coating that prevents corrosion under insulation (CUI) by removing the insulation itself. Because CUI can only form where insulation traps moisture against hot metal, replacing bulky mineral-wool systems with a coating eliminates the conditions in which CUI develops.
- Heat-Flex AEB retains operating temperatures of up to 177°C (350°F), with excursions to 204°C

(400°F). Unlike traditional insulation, which loses efficiency as moisture penetrates over time, the coating maintains consistent thermal efficiency, so assets hold their required temperatures without raising process heat or energy use.

- Applied by spray as a single-component (1K) coating, Heat-Flex AEB can be installed on assets operating at up to 148°C (300°F) - avoiding the shutdowns and close-contact manual fitting of insulation, cladding and banding, and removing those materials entirely to extend steel asset life and cut maintenance, shipping and manufacturing burden.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://industrial.sherwin-williams.com/emeai/gb/en/protective-marine.html>

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS COMPANY PROFILE

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Sherwin-Williams Protective & Marine delivers world-class industry subject matter expertise, unparalleled technical and specification service, and unmatched regional commercial team support to our customers around the globe. Our broad portfolio of high-performance coatings and systems – including protective liquid and powder, fire protection and resinous flooring – excel at combating corrosion and help customers achieve smarter, time-tested asset protection. We serve a wide array of markets across our rapidly growing international distribution footprint, including Bridge & Highway, Energy, High Value Infrastructure, Manufacturing & Processing, Marine, Rail, Power and Water & Wastewater.

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